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## Kenyon Collegian - November 21, 2019

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# The Kenyon Collegian

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## ASHES organizes protest of ICE at Morrow County Jail



Helen Cunningham '21 and Graham Ball '21 spent months organizing a protest of ICE's contract with Morrow County Jail, a temporary facility for detainees. | BEN NUTTER

**BECCA FOLEY**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Several dozens of Kenyon students, along with students from Oberlin and community members from Columbus, rallied outside the Morrow County Jail in Mount Gilead last Saturday. For over three hours, they stood in the cold to protest the Jail's contract with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

The protest was organized by Active Students Helping the Earth Survive (ASHES) as a way to provide students with more opportunities for direct action.

"I knew that there was a dearth of activist opportunities on campus, but I wasn't sure if that was because people weren't interested in it or because there weren't opportunities," Helen Cunningham '21, co-chair of ASHES, said.

"I found in organizing this that if you build it, people will come, and that is really exciting to know going forward."

President Decatur was proud to see students taking their activism efforts off campus. "I'm glad to see that students are really taking the thoughts and ideas that are discussed on campus and finding ways to put them into action in the broader world," he said.

ICE and the Morrow County Sheriff's Office have had a contract dating back to 2008 which allows ICE to house their detainees at the jail. Once they are there, they are treated the same as regular prisoners.

The contract with ICE is fairly lucrative for the County, whose jail is one of four facilities in the state where ICE detainees are kept. Most of

the immigrants being held at the Morrow County Jail don't stay for long — approximately 14 days — before they are transferred to a more permanent facility.

While ASHES's initial goal for the protest had been to end the Jail's contract with ICE, their efforts gradually become more focused towards the more feasible goal of showing solidarity with the immigrants being detained.

Graham Ball '21, the other co-chair of ASHES, felt that the protest was a huge success. "We did exactly what we set out to do," he said, "which was to stand in solidarity with immigrants and to mobilize student activism."

Met with a single counter-protester holding up a small photo of rapper Vanilla Ice, the protesters had brought a megaphone outside in order to make sure that the prison-

ers inside—over half of whom have been detained by ICE—could hear them. The most prominent chant was "no están solos," which translates to "you are not alone."

"In that moment they weren't forgotten," Cunningham said. "There [were] people out [t]here who [were] fighting for them."

The event also included testimonials from students, poetry readings, as well as many songs, including "This Land Is Your Land," and chants, such as "No ICE, no KKK, no fascist USA."

Despite the chilly weather, the protesters remained passionate and determined. "It was cold," Ceci Rodriguez '22, an attendee of the protest, said, "but that means we stood closer together and screamed louder."

"Next time we'll bring hand warmers," Ball joked.

The protest culminated with an impromptu decision on the part of the ASHES leaders — after packing up, a precaution in case a speedy exit was needed, the protesters moved closer to the side of the jail where the detainees could hear their chants. "No están solos," they shouted again and again to the jail walls: "You are not alone."

Both Cunningham and Ball agreed that it will require much more sustained action to convince the jail to end their contract with ICE. "We gained valuable experience, we gained confidence, and I think we gained the ability to go out there again in the future and continue this campaign," Ball said. "We have to keep going and we plan to do so."

*Evey Weisblat contributed reporting. She is a member of ASHES.*

## Students fear Market Juul pods "aren't the same as other pods"

**GRANT HOLT**  
STAFF WRITER

The Village Market still carries mint-flavored Juul pods, despite Juul's recent announcement that they would no longer sell them. This, along with other concerns—the Village Market is not listed as a retailer on the Juul website—has led students to question the validity and safety of these pods.

On Oct. 29, 2019, a former Juul executive filed a lawsuit alleging that the electronic cigarette company knowingly shipped approximately one million contaminated mint-flavored Juul pods to retail distributors.

You can still find mint-flavored pods, however, at the

Village Market.

"That's because Juul themselves aren't supplying them," a student, who was granted anonymity due to health issues, said. "But it's not illegal to sell mint. So that's probably an old batch."

For students without a reliable means of off-campus transportation, the Village Market is the only way for Juul users to get their pods.

"[Juul] helped me stop smoking [combustible cigarettes]," Zoë Engle '21 said. "Recently, it's been harder to get off campus to get pods. I've been spending most of my time using Market pods, but they're kind of scary."

Engle has found that the Market's pods leak and drain unusually fast.

"I've been buying a lot more—spending a lot more money, obviously," Engle said. "It's just because they keep leaking. I know people who have purchased [Market pods] and give them to other people because they don't want them. I know five people, who were heavy [Juul users] the past two years, who quit in the past two months because they feel the Market pods aren't the same as other pods they've been buying."

Engle also reports a stale taste and orange color.

"I've only tried the mint ones at the Market," she said. "Mint pods are supposed to be clear, and the Market ones are this weird color. The clear ones are typically how you know you're getting safe

pods, at least that's what I've been taught. With the Market, they're all orange."

Engle isn't the only Juul user to report problems with pods from the Village Market. Other students have reported coughs, chest pains and stomach problems.

"I started having seizures after buying these pods and using these pods," a student who was granted anonymity due to medical privacy, said. "I have a history with seizures, but nothing in my life had changed other than these pods. That was the only independent variable coming into my life. I started having seizures from them, and once I stopped using them, I stopped having seizures." The student had used Juul pods

for two years, and the mint-flavored pods had not previously caused them any health complications. The student also claimed that the pods tasted strange, leaked e-liquid and did not properly fit in the Juul device. Scanning the packaging's QR code did not provide any identification of the product.

The Juul website offers a registered retail store locator, which customers can use to search for the nearest licensed retailer that carries Juul products. Four locations are registered in Mount Vernon: Cheap Tobacco, Speedway 9193, Mt. Vernon Express and Mount Vernon Marathon. No locations are displayed in Gambier, despite the fact that the



# Comedy hypnotist sparks controversy with racist opening joke

Kenyon Asian Identities reacted to a racist joke by a performer sponsored by Social Board.

**EVEY WEISBLAT**  
SENIOR NEWS EDITOR

Matt Grisham was advertised by Social Board as a “comedy hypnotist,” but his first joke was neither funny nor hypnotic; instead, it was racist.

While Grisham, who performed at Rosse Hall last Wednesday, received zero laughs from the audience for his ill-conceived joke, Asian students in attendance came away from the performance feeling like their identities had been commodified for a cheap one-liner.

“This ‘joke’ played into a variety of stereotypes about Asians, specifically that Asians will never truly be part of America, that Asians are manipulative, can’t speak English and are all the same,” Kenyon Asian Identities wrote in a student-info email sent out on Wednesday morning. “Even though the Asian student body is diversifying and growing, this campus, as well as society at large, continues to dismiss the complexity of our identities,” they wrote. “Grisham’s joke perpetuates these dated stereotypes, treating us as easy targets for lazy humor.”

Several hours after the original email, Social Board sent out a student-info email to the student body apologizing for the incident and accepting accountability for Grisham’s insensitive remarks.

“Social Board is going to reach out to Matt Grisham and his representatives to prevent this from occurring again at other institutions and ven-

ues,” they wrote. “Moving forward, we will do our very best to filter out this sort of behavior from future performers.”

But before either of these emails were composed, Student Council spent a good 20 minutes discussing the controversy at their meeting on Monday evening.

Representatives from Social Board who were present at the meeting said that they had done research on Grisham and had found no indication that he would employ derogatory humor — or any humor at all — in his performance.

“Even doing the research and everything, [I] watched videos on him, obviously no one thought that he was going to do this [make jokes],” Patrick Nally ’21, a president of Social Board, said. “I met with him as well, and in meeting him prior to the show—great guy. He was here with his family, his younger kid—I was very surprised when that happened.”

Following this admission, Bradley Berklich ’22, Student Council’s vice president for academic affairs, pointed out that Grisham’s website did specify a comedy element to his performances. “I don’t want to make a huge deal of this, but I’m on his booking page right now, and it does explicitly say ‘comedy show,’” he said.

The Council then shared a laugh after Berklich displayed the flyer sent out by Social Board in the original emails advertising the event, which described Grisham as a “comedy hypnotist.” “Whether he was funny or not is sort of immaterial,” Berklich

said. “I would say at the front end the contract needs to be a little more clear, just for next time.”

Even so, the Council generally agreed that Social Board could not have anticipated Grisham’s insensitive remarks, and members expressed gratitude for the group’s willingness to accept accountability for his behavior.

Jodi-Ann Wang ’20, senior class president and founder of Kenyon Asian Identities, acknowledged that, while Grisham’s choice of content was outside of Social Board’s control, they should as an organization be held accountable for the speakers they bring to campus.

“Because of that, I would like to see a statement from Social Board going to the entire campus addressing this issue,” she said during the Student Council meeting. “And hopefully we can start a conversation about how we can prevent this while [for] any organization on campus, if you’re bringing someone, to have that heads up about what is okay. ... We are having this conversation right now, but also the campus needs to know what’s the proper way of dealing with a situation like this.”

Much of the rest of the Council’s discussion focused on proactive solutions for similar instances where a speaker, likely a comedian, makes inflammatory or offensive remarks. One suggestion was for sponsors to discuss with the comedian beforehand about Kenyon’s community values and how Kenyon audiences would respond to certain kinds of jokes.

However, Laura Kane, dean of campus life, said that an informal conversation of this kind would have little practical merit, because speakers usually sign contracts at least a month in advance, so their intended content would already be fairly set in stone.

In addition, she said that contracts with performers generally don’t take into account cultural values, but rather focus on the behavioral and criminal aspects of performances. “It doesn’t go into community values, because we didn’t really have a succinct set of those before, so something like this [the revised mission statement] might be able to guide that process,” she said.

Multiple Council members and community members in attendance suggested that a concrete policy be established to guide how Social Board and other organizations establish expectations for speakers or performers that they bring to campus.

“I hope this can be turned into an ongoing conversation about policy and the way that we talk about this, cause I don’t think it’s valuable to bring anyone and be like, ‘Tell me what you’re gonna say, and I’ll tell you what’s okay and not okay,’” Wang said. “This is a conversation. I’m glad y’all resonate with how we feel, but I hope [we will] just [keep] moving forward in terms of policy and action.”

Student Council President Delaney Barker ’20 has budgeted time to discuss the matter in next week’s Council meeting.

## Hemp production is legal, but regulations trouble farmers

**LINNEA MUMMA**  
STAFF WRITER

Ohio’s legalization of hemp production in July has piqued the farming community’s interest. The law, signed by Ohio Governor Mike DeWine on July 30, 2019, allows farmers to grow hemp as long as it contains less than 0.3 percent THC, according to Cleveland Scene.

Although hemp and marijuana are both varieties of the cannabis plant, hemp does not produce the same psychoactive effect as marijuana, which contains high levels of THC. Hemp contains mostly

CBD, which is used for anxiety relief and helps with sleep. CBD has gained increasing popularity over the years; it can be found in lotions, soaps and various oils. Because of this growing demand, farmers foresee considerable income from the hemp market.

However, as the Ohio Department of Agriculture finalizes regulations on hemp production, small farmers have worries that the hemp market could become exclusionary.

According to The Columbus Dispatch, hemp farmers are required to use at least a

quarter acre and must grow at least 1,000 plants. This regulation is designed to help authorities differentiate between marijuana grown illegally in backyards and hemp grown solely for commercial production.

Andy Hupp, a farmer looking to plant hemp, told Dispatch that this requirement is a “high barrier for entry.” Devoting a quarter of an acre and growing 1,000 plants, he said, is a “pretty big risk.”

Erika Stark, executive director of the National Hemp Association, told the Scene that given that this is such a

new development, farmers should make sure that they understand the regulations as they unfold.

“For any farmer looking to get into this for the very first time, I seriously recommend starting small,” Stark said. “Don’t go from never growing it before to planting 20, 50, 100 acres.”

Those who wish to grow hemp in more than one place are required to obtain a license for each location and pay an application fee of \$500.

Given the restrictions on THC levels, farmers must be mindful of the fact that hemp

generates more THC as it ages. Farmers might need to harvest their crop before it fully matures in order to stay under the limit.

“You could have thousands of dollars invested in this, but if you surpass that threshold, you’re going to have to destroy your whole crop,” Troy Erickson, an entrepreneur who plans to harvest hemp, told Dispatch.

As rules and regulations continue to develop, farmers must be aware of the challenges that may unfold if they choose to take on hemp production.

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# Kenyon alumna gives Indigenous Heritage Month keynote

EVEY WEISBLAT  
SENIOR NEWS EDITOR

November is Indigenous Heritage Month, and in celebration the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (ODEI) put together a series of events, performances and screenings to recognize the experiences of native people in the community and around the world.

The keynote presentation was given by Stephanie Fryberg '94, a Kenyon alumna, social and cultural psychologist and university diversity and social transformation professor of psychology at the University of Michigan. Fryberg is also a member of the Tulalip Tribes of Washington.

Carlos Lopez Martinez '23, who is indigenous but not of North America, said he came to Fryberg's lecture because it presented a rare opportunity to think and talk about the indigenous experience, which is often either made invisible or ignored in the popular culture.

"It's hard in a space like this [Kenyon] to find space in which indigeneity is brought up, so I thought it was important to come and learn, because it's something that's not prominent in spaces like this," Martinez said.

Fryberg focused her talk in Cheever Room last Wednesday on the reclaiming of native truths. She discussed how social representations of Native Ameri-

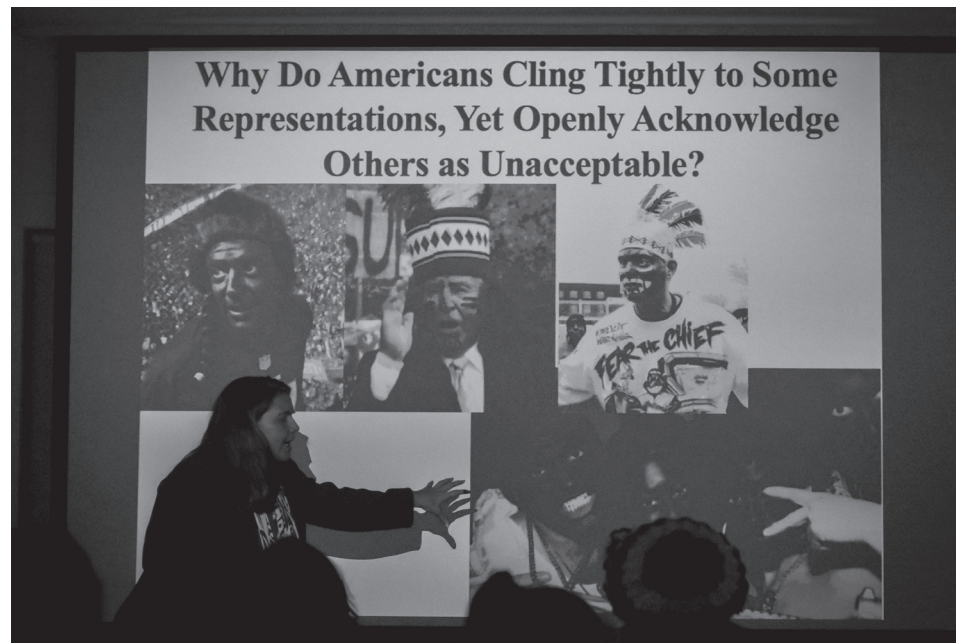
cans influence mainstream cultural beliefs about and support for Indigenous peoples. Social representations, Fryberg said, allow us to orient ourselves within a society and communicate with one another, but they also lead to the cultivation of unfounded stereotypes.

According to Fryberg's presentation, there are three dominant representations of Native Americans. First, there is the Romantic "positive" representation—think Pookahannes, or the friendly Indian figures in the Thanksgiving myth. These purport to be positive representations, but Fryberg says they are anything but.

Second, there are negative stereotypes: that all Native Americans live in poverty, are drunkards or are unable to make their own decisions. Third, there is the idea of the vanished or invisible natives—widely held beliefs that indigenous people have dissipated into the white world and don't really exist anymore.

Fryberg explained that all of these tropes, no matter how harmless they appear on the surface, have actually been proven to lower the self-esteem, community worth and achievement-related aspirations of Native people. More disturbingly, they at the same time make white people feel better about themselves.

Fryberg laced her speech with facts and statistics, mixing hard data with personal anecdotes—including a story from



Stephanie Fryberg '94 discussed her research on social representations of Native Americans for the Indigenous Heritage Month keynote lecture. | REID STAUTBERG

her time at Kenyon when a classmate asked her if she had needed to buy new clothes to come to college—all of which conveyed a true passion for her work and for the next generation of Native people.

"The reason I do this work is because I want [my children] to go into a world where they can be absolutely anything that they want to be," Fryberg said. "Changing these representations does not rest solely with Native Americans. In fact,

what underlies everything that's going on actually has nothing to do with us. In order to really make change, we need allies; we need people to step up. At the very least, do not allow us to be invisible. ... We have to stop the invisibility, and we have to stop the denial of racism and we have to allow native people to be all that they are today, which is very much contributing members of American society."

## Hannah-Drullard elected for Diversity and Inclusion chair

ADAM SCHWAGER  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Last week, the campus elected the first chair for the newly-formed Diversity and Inclusion Committee. Out of the three candidates who accepted their nominations, Teddy Hannah-Drullard '20 was selected as the inaugural chair to help determine the Committee's direction and goals.

Part of Hannah-Drullard's duties will be to help amend the Student Council bylaws regarding the Committee. Much of the groundwork for these changes occurred two weeks ago, when nominees for the position—specifically Hannah-Drullard, Micah Smith '22 and Jodi-Ann Wang '20—discussed their concerns about the bylaw's wording/phrasing with members of Student Council.

"Instead of being a reactive thing—which is a problem we've been having in the past—we wanted to make the Chair position something that would foster proactive mindsets that'll make it easier for [People of Color] on this campus and other marginalized communities as well," Hannah-Drullard said. "I want to make it so I can identify problem areas on campus and fix them at their root."

One of the major talking points of Monday's Student Council meeting, the first one in which Hannah-Drullard acted as the new Chair, discussed a hypnotist brought in by the Social Board who made an offensive joke about Asians.

"That was shocking to [Student Council] because he didn't advertise himself as someone who would do that, but there's also nothing in our event planning or contract system that warns people that we're bringing to campus that they shouldn't tell insensitive jokes," Hannah-Drullard said.

The bylaw addendum that Hannah-Drullard has fought hardest for has been the inclusion of a non-voting, non-committee member of Student Council who would sit in on all Committee meetings and be another representative on Student Council beyond the Chair.

"A big issue for marginalized identities on this campus is feeling like we have to self-advocate all the time, and that's a whole different second shift from our on-campus jobs and our academics and our sports," Hannah-Drullard said. "And so, if I find myself unable to get my point across—which is another problem that marginalized

identities experience—then this [representative] will be able to say 'guys, you aren't listening.'"

Another aspect of Hannah-Drullard's responsibilities will be aiding the formation and leadership of the Committee. Although the idea was floated around two weeks ago that the Chair would select the Vice-Chair, Hannah-Drullard and Student Council agreed that this would be too much of a consolidation of power. Instead, Hannah-Drullard will first fill the Committee with new members, then the Committee will decide Vice-Chair and Secretary.

"The way we designed the position, the Vice-Chair should be someone who gets along with the Chair and works well with the Chair but also who occupies a lot of different groups [other than those that] the Chair occupies," Hannah-Drullard said. "I think Jodi-Ann [Wang] would be a really awesome Vice-Chair, and we've talked about it ... I told her that if I got the Chair position [that] I would really appreciate it if she would run for Vice[-Chair]."

For now, Hannah-Drullard's first step will be to form a committee of students passionate about diversity and inclusion on campus.

## Vandals repeatedly target first-year dorm bathrooms

RONAN ELLIOTT  
NEWS EDITOR

It was Saturday night. Bijan Khaghani '23 was sitting in the first floor common room of Lewis Residence Hall when he heard a commotion on the second floor. A student came down the stairs and announced that a group of people had just come through and vandalized the upstairs bathroom.

When Khaghani walked upstairs, he found the hall in ruins. Soap dispensers had been knocked from the walls. Community Advisor (CA) informational posters lay torn and scattered on the ground. The personal belongings of several students had been dumped in and around the urinals.

Callie Gompf-Phillips '21, CA for Lewis Hall, reported being the first one to discover the mess. "It was part of our normal rounds as community advisors—we check the bathrooms and we move through all of the halls," Gompf-Phillips said. "Sometime after midnight we came through and we knocked on the door and we went in, and that was the condition in which it was found."

"It's not an isolated incident," she added. "This is the first time it's happened in Lewis to this extent, but this is [not] the first time this semester in which we see a mass vandalism or destruction in a hall."

Over the past few weeks, a series of vandalism incidents have struck first-year residence halls such as Lewis, Mather Hall and McBride Hall. Unknown vandals have torn mirrors off walls, broken soap dispensers and flung toiletries around communal bathrooms. Meredith Harper Bonham '92, vice president for student affairs, finds the incidents "dismaying."

"There were a couple of incidents over

the weekend, but there have been others this semester," Bonham said. "It's disappointing, in particular because our vandalism rates fell precipitously after we changed the K-card access system for the residence halls. Now we've had these incidents cropping up again."

The current K-card system, which gives only certain students access to each residence hall, was intended to prevent students from committing vandalism in dormitories that weren't their own. It was expected that students would be less likely to vandalize their own living spaces. Khaghani suspects that the Lewis vandalism was committed by students from another residence hall.

"I don't know who they are, or which groups they were," Khaghani said. "What we've been noticing is that it's a lot of people who aren't from the dorms coming in and believing that they don't have responsibility for the dorm, therefore they can do whatever they want."

The Office of Campus Safety is conducting an investigation into these incidents. While it is not yet complete, Michael Sweazey, director of Campus Safety, assures students that several of the culprits have already been identified.

"Thanks in part to information received from a number of students who are tired of others damaging their campus, some students have been identified as being responsible for some of the recent damage," Sweazey wrote in an email to the Collegian. "To deter further vandalism, we have increased patrols in the dorms, and we encourage anyone with information concerning who has committed vandalism to report it to Campus Safety."

Grant Holt contributed reporting.



# Village of Gambier and College consider joint fire district

**TOMMY JOHNSON**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Nearly a year ago the College Township Fire Department and Monroe Township split. Now, the fire department, the College Township and the Village of Gambier are considering future arrangements that can guarantee sufficient funding for this vital service.

The end of the College Township Fire Department's contract with Monroe eliminated approximately \$200,000 in fire and emergency medical services (EMS) funding. With the Township Board of Trustees and the Village working together to think about the future, a 21st-century joint fire district or a merger between the Village and the Township are still an indeterminate length of time, and at least one ballot initiative, away.

Funding for the fire department is complicated. Traditionally, levies on property taxes fund township fire departments, but the biggest property owner in the Township is Kenyon College, which, as a not-for-profit, is exempt from such taxes. In lieu of taxes, the College contributes a voluntary payment to help support the department. The department is additionally funded by taxes on Gambier homeowners and insurance reimbursements.

Part of the fire department's current problems come from being under the Township's jurisdiction. A township is a governing unit subordinate to the county but distinct from corporations like Gambier. Today, the division often complicates matters more than it simplifies them.

"Townships are like a historical anachronism ... they're not super meaningful divisions of government; they kind of don't fit in," Mayor Kachen Kimmell said. Townships have historically provided a way for rural citizens to help one another, but the overlap between Township and Village residents has grown significantly. As of the 2010 census, 2,731 people lived in the College Township, but only 340 of these people lived outside of Gambier.

Earlier this fall, nearly a year after the split with Monroe, Kimmell said that Township trustees approached her and Mark Kohlman, Kenyon's chief business officer, and proposed the idea of a joint fire district. The concept of a joint fire district was created by the Ohio State Legislature to help address issues of financing fire departments. Ohio's Revised Code Chapter 505.371 allows for municipalities, whether they are townships or corporations, to pass joint resolutions forming a new fire department.

Kimmell envisioned the joint district having a governing board that contains at least one elected representative from the Township and the Village, as well as a representative from Kenyon.

"Theoretically, when this board comes together, they're going to come to an agreement that involves everyone paying more," Kimmell said.

President Sean Decatur noted the strain the department has been under since the end of last year. He said he wanted to see if a joint fire district was the right model.

"We're interested in seeing a financially sustainable fire department, but also a fire department that meets the safety needs of the campus," he said. He added that he wants the role of the student volunteers to remain an integral part of the fire department.

Kimmell also stressed the importance of student volunteers, saying the influx of committed volunteers makes the Township's fire department stronger than others.

Kimmell also mentioned the possibility of a merger between the Village of Gambier and the College Township. This would extend the Village borders to the current Township borders and absorb the several hundred Township citizens who currently live outside the Village

limits. Kimmell said that the idea of the merger began to pick up steam over the summer with the creation of the Village of Gambier Strategic Plan.

While the idea is gaining traction, the concrete details are still in their early stages.

"This is a very complicated thing to consider. It's kind of good that the new administration is going to be at the beginning of thinking about it," Kimmell said. She said that Mayor-elect Leeman Kessler '04, as well as the three new Village Council members (a third seat will open once Kessler assumes his mayor duties), will shape the conversation around a possible Village-Township merger.

The idea of a merger excites Kimmell because it represents planning for governance in the 21st century, something the current municipal structures were not necessarily designed to do, as highlighted by the fire department's woes. She said that possible changes could include the construction of a new fire station, which would create new resources for the fire department and free up space for retail in the village center.

For now, with any potential merger being several meetings, hearings and ballot initiatives away, the future of the fire department is still up for debate.



Students and faculty fill Brandi Recital Hall for BSU presentation. Topics included racial visibility, the minority experience at Kenyon and the importance of diversity among faculty. | BEN NUTTER

## BSU hosts student panel about issues of race in the classroom

**KAYLEIGH MCCOY**  
NEWS ASSISTANT

Last Tuesday, Nov. 19, Brandi Recital Hall was filled with students, faculty and staff. The attendees were there to listen to a student panel on race in the classroom, presented by the Black Student Union (BSU) and co-sponsored by the Center for Innovative Pedagogy.

The panel featured Micah Smith '22, Celeste Ramirez Diaz '22, Grant Hall '20 and Jacky Neri Arias '13, associate director of the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (ODEI), answering questions posed by the moderator, Jené Schoenfeld, professor of English, as well as the audience.

The students touched on their own classroom experiences as racial minorities at Kenyon, as well as what they thought could improve those experiences.

Several of the students also spoke about their transition from their diverse home communities to Kenyon's predominantly white campus, and how that shaped their experience. Schoenfeld raised the question of "the complicated tension between invisibility and hypervisibility" on campus, which the students on the panel empathized with, especially in terms of intersecting identities.

The students emphasized the importance of having faculty of color to turn to, as well as the need for white

faculty to do more for students of color in the classroom. While the event was mainly aimed towards faculty, most of the questions were asked by students in the audience. Many students who attended walked away feeling like the faculty had not participated enough. Others focused more on what they could take from this presentation and bring to the classroom.

"I've been trying to think lately how I, as a white-passing person, can help support visible students of color in my classes," Audrey Mueller '22 said.

"I would like students of color to be able to be students, and not to be treated as educators for other students on issues of diversity."

## Market Juul pods raise fears of contamination

Continued from Page 1

Village Market has sold Juul products since the start of the semester.

The Village Market began stocking Juul products around the same time that a former Juul executive filed the lawsuit. The lawsuit, filed by Juul's former Vice President of Global Finance Siddharth Breja, states that Breja learned of a contaminated batch of "Mint Refill Kits." The contaminated kits were traced to two batches of Juul's e-liquid. Approximately one week later, Breja raised concerns about these kits at an executive meeting. Approximately 250,000 mint refill kits were made with contaminated e-liquid, shipped to retailers and sold to customers. According to the lawsuit, Juul increased pressure on suppliers to manufacture mint pods to meet demand.

On Nov. 7, 2019, a sub-committee of the House of Representatives demanded that Juul turn over all documents relating to potentially contaminated e-liquid; the company is expected to produce the documents by Nov. 21, 2019.

On the date of the sub-committee hearing, Juul also announced that they would no longer sell mint-flavored pods. In a statement released on their website, current-CEO of Juul Labs K.C. Crosthwaite announced that the company would "immediately stop accepting orders from our retail partners for our mint Juul pods in the U.S. and cease sale of mint Juul pods in the U.S. through our e-commerce site." The statement cites studies by the 2019 National Youth Tobacco Survey and the Monitoring the Future survey that indicated mint's popularity among underage users as influencing the company's decision.

The Village Market plans to stock up while they still can, according to Josh

Aberman '20, who spoke to the cashier on duty while buying Juul pods. Village Market Manager Tim Newton, however, claims to have not known about students having problems with pods. "I have heard in the media that there are bootlegs," Newton said. "But we've only ever had one source, and that's Gummer Wholesale."

Gummer Wholesale, Inc. operates a wholesale distribution company. The company offers fast food, drinks, groceries, cigarettes and tobacco to convenience stores, including the Village Market. When asked about reports of problematic Juul pods, Gummer's Human Resources Department declined to comment. The *Collegian* also reached out to other divisions of the company for comment, but has yet to receive a reply.

Juul announced last year that, in support of the Food and Drug Administration's initiative to reduce underage e-cigarette usage, they would halt sales of their fruit and dessert flavors—like mango, cucumber and creme brulee—in retail stores. On Oct. 17, 2019, Juul announced they would immediately halt all sales of fruit and dessert flavors on their website in response to a federal policy that would remove all flavored e-cigarettes from the consumer marketplace. However, until their separate statement that they would cease the sale of mint-flavored Juul pods, Juul continued to sell them because they were classified as menthol rather than flavored. Currently, the Juul website and retail stores only offer Virginia tobacco, classic tobacco and menthol Juul pods in the United States.

The *Collegian* has provided mint and menthol pods to Visiting Assistant Professor of Chemistry Matthew Rouhier for analysis. Results are forthcoming.



“200 Collegians Seeing God:” Kenyon’s MDA crisis of 1968

DANTE KANTER  
STAFF WRITER

On the weekend of October 11, 1968, one year after ex-Harvard professor Timothy Leary commanded the crowd at the first “Human Be-in” in San Francisco to “tune in, turn on and drop out,” 250 tabs of MDA—a derivative of the psychoactive chemical compound typically referred to as ecstasy—found their way onto Kenyon’s campus. Soon after, a “mass trip” drove the College into a near state of emergency that threw the cultural divisions that defined the late 1960s into sharp relief.

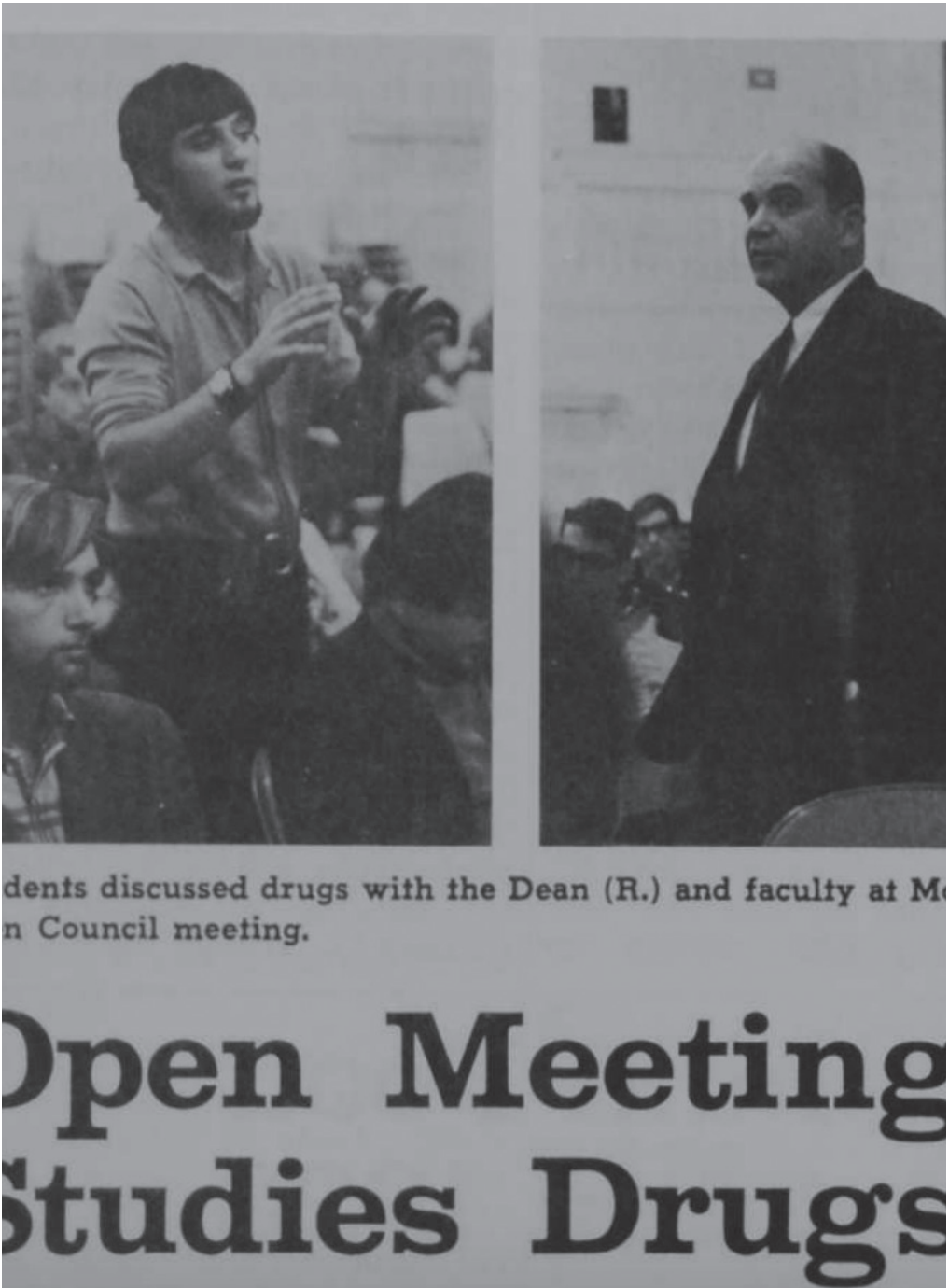
“Because of the large numbers of people using the drug, because of the fact that some non-Kenyon people came to Gambier apparently to participate in using the drug, and because the drug seems to inspire a missionary-type zeal in its users, urging them to recruit others to take it,” wrote the *Collegian* on October 18, 1968, “many people in various areas of the College have become quite concerned.”

Kenyon President William G. Caples responded with a harsh warning to the students who took part in the revelry. “No one has any right or license to conduct himself as to destroy the good work or name of others or the community,” he said in an address to the student body given at Rosse Hall. “Yet here people have assumed it. This kind of behavior has to be stopped ... Like it or not, the law establishes the morality or immorality of any act.” According to Caples, by the time of his speech, one student had withdrawn on his own accord, one was on probation and numerous others were under investigation. After his address, Caples threatened to involve the federal authorities if any further drug use was reported and

left Rosse without taking any questions. Student Council President David Hoster ’70 called Caples’ speech “dangerously extreme,” taking particular issue with the president’s equation of morality and legality and claiming that his statements were antithetical to a liberal arts education. “Like it or not there are no standards anywhere, and that includes the law, that are so perfect that they are beyond question or exclude violation out of hand,” Hoster said in a Student Council meeting, “and one who asserts that law is an absolute unto itself and in the same breath says there are no easy or final answers has involved himself in a massive contradiction.”

As much as the MDA debacle created a rift between Kenyon students and administrators, it also highlighted significant differences of opinion within the student body. In letters to the editor, Mark L. Denton ’71 called the incident a “blatant abuse of the freedom to which Kenyon students have been privileged,” while Robert Miller ’70 wrote that “it is inconsistent for the administration to follow a laissez-faire policy of allowing a large amount of personal freedom, within limits, with regard to drinking and dates, and to follow a strictly prescriptive policy with regard to drugs,” citing beat generation author and famous “junkie” William Burroughs and calling the newly enacted federal laws against recreational drug use “America’s first native gestapo.”


Reed Woodhouse ’70, on the other hand, understood why administration had cracked down so harshly on drug users. “[T]he College,” he said, “cannot afford to take the chance that with another MDA weekend a federal agent will ignore the rather startling sight of 200 collegians seeing God.”




In an excerpt of the *Collegian*, a student is shown presenting a point in a Student Council meeting about drug use on campus. | GREENSLADE ARCHIVE & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

CLASS CLASH


COMPILED BY JACKSON WALD AND ADAM SCHWAGER




Senior Class Total:  
14



Junior Class Total:  
17



Sophomore Class Total:  
11



First -Year Class Total:  
12

	Answer	Jake Barnett '20	Emma Richardson '21	Simon Lentz '22	Jack Rayden '23
Who is <i>People Magazine</i> 's Sexiest Man Alive in 2019?	John Legend	Robert Patterson	John Legend	John Legend	The Rock
What is the official name of the "Gates of Hell" separating North and South Campus?	College Gates	Ransom Gates	Bill Gates	Gates of Hell	the Gund Gate
Rutherford B. Hayes is the only U.S. President to attend Kenyon College. Which President was he? (± 2)	19	15	19	29	19
What is the smallest country in the world?	Vatican City	Vatican City	Vatican City	Monaco	Vatican City
Weekly Scores		1	3	1	2





Ted Rice, pictured above, moved to Mount Vernon from Coventry, England. Upon moving to Mount Vernon, Rice immediately joined the club. | COURTESY OF TED RICE

## A Mount Vernon club cultivates snow-sports enthusiasts

The Mount Vernon Ski & Snowboarding club uses the facilities at Snow Trails in Mansfield.

**JACKSON WALD**  
FEATURES EDITOR

**DORA SEGALL**  
STAFF WRITER

With winter coming fast, many students are preparing to bundle up and stay indoors. The Mount Vernon Ski & Snowboarding Club, however, presents another option. Starting on Mansfield ski resort Snow Trails' opening day, the group will offer programs allowing local residents to ski, snowboard and tube up to seven days a week.

"Unlike a school or a more formal club, where you provide transport, this is a group of all sorts of people from all walks of life," said Ted Rice, the primary organizer of the group. Rice, who is originally from Coventry, England,

began skiing during a business trip while working for Rolls Royce to Calgary in Alberta, Canada. After a colleague invited him to come skiing in Banff, he was hooked. He learned about the Mount Vernon club upon returning

and joined immediately.

The Club offers package deals for lift tickets,

lessons and add-ons to people of all ages. "It's something to do on a snowy evening or snowy weekend when you're inclined to stay around the College or go to the library," Rice said. "You can get yourself up to Snow Trails,

which is like a 22-mile road trip each way. And boom, you can participate."

According to Rice, the Snow Trails facilities are continuously improving each year. For example, Snow Trails now uses multiple snowblowers and chillers — a machine that is driven by a fan and injects cool water from a well on the property into the mountain, which makes it easier to

create artificial snow.

There are various packages available, all dependent on the amount of time one decides to ski. For lift tickets, after Nov. 14, it cost \$205 to pay once a week, \$275 to pay everyday and \$120 to pay for tubing only.

The tubing option is popular among both children and adults. "The uniqueness of [the tubing] group is that we have people from all different walks of life, and some of us try and get in touch with others ... and we perhaps hang out together [on Saturday morning]," Rice said. In addition to its outdoor activities, the ski resort has a lodge which boasts a wood fireplace and, every now and then, various live performances.

The Mount Vernon Ski & Snowboarding Club takes pride in bringing all sorts of residents to the slopes. "It attracts people who aren't indigenous to this area to participate in local activities and interact ... It brings to Mount Vernon, to Kenyon College and the Y[MCA] and the library, some balance to the academics, and a physical outlet," Rice said.

"I think it's awesome that we can learn together. We can pursue physical sports during the summer months and in the winter we can get together and celebrate the winter."

While the start and end dates for the club are not final, there are some important times to note at Snow Trails. On December 14, there is a kickoff party, on Jan 25 there is a midseason party, and the ski season efficiently culminates in the 59th annual Winter Ski Carnival on Feb 22 and 23.

While the semester may be winding down, and the temperature has started to descend from chilly to frigid, don't discount the opportunity to meet people from the local community and engage in a sport and activity that is only a short drive away.

*Students or faculty interested in getting involved with Mount Vernon Ski & Snowboarding Club can contact Ted Rice by cellphone at 740-507-9170 or by email at ted.rice@roadrunner.com. They can also contact Rachel Goeppinger at 740-263-0223 or rgepp4@gmail.com.*







Emily Blanquera '20, above, is a director and lighting designer. Recently, her work was on display in the play *Late, A Cowboy Song*. | COURTESY OF EMILY BLANQUERA

## Artist Profile: inside the illuminations of a lighting designer

LEAH ANDERSON  
STAFF WRITER

Emily Blanquera '20 sees the world as a series of light, shadows and angles. A director, actor, set designer and lighting designer, Blanquera finds that her creative perspective has made its way into her daily life. "After doing so much lighting design work," she said, "I see the sunrise in a different way."

It was Blanquera's sister who initially persuaded her to become involved with theater. "I really hated theater when I started doing it," she said.

However, Blanquera continued to participate in theater after that, since it was convenient for her and her sister to do the same activity. It wasn't until forming a strong bond with her theater community in high school that she was able to fall in love with drama.

In high school, Blanquera mainly focused on the acting side of theater. Since coming to Kenyon, she has expanded her involvement, taking on the roles of director, set designer and lighting designer. Though she is also passionate about directing, Blanquera said, "Design in general ... is where I feel most comfortable and challenged in the same way."

Blanquera studied off-campus at the National Theater Institute in Connecticut last semester, where she focused on developing her skills as a director. The program she attended helped shape her approach to directing *Late, a Cowboy Song*, which was performed on Oct. 25 and 26. Blanquera is thankful that the first full-length play she directed is one that has long been dear to her.

"If I was ever mad or upset," she said, "I could read [*Late, a Cowboy Song*] and it would make me feel better."

As a director, Blanquera believes it is important to treat each character sympathetically. Approaching the script as if every character is a good person, even if it is untrue, allows her to care equally for each role. For *Late, a Cowboy Song*, Blanquera led the actors in speaking activities and spatial exercises, such as manipulating their voice and exaggerating physical actions. These methods helped her observe and plan out the physical aspects of performance and become more familiar with her actors' techniques. She also believes that the exercises gave her actors the confidence to make decisions about their speech and movement.

Blanquera worked as both the director and the lighting designer for *Late, a Cowboy Song*, roles she felt especially prepared for because of her knowledge of the play.

The role of light in a performance varies depending on the tone of the

play and the decisions of the director. Sometimes lighting is strictly for visibility, but light can also establish setting or emotionally support the plot. A self-described "goon for spectacle," she loves playing with angles, silhouettes and colors in her designs.

Theater has taught Blanquera to view all human connections as a type of performance. "Maybe the thing I love the most about theater is the perspective that it gives you," she said. "You think so critically about the things people do on stage that you cannot stop thinking about ... the way things look in the everyday."

Blanquera, who serves as the technical director for StageFemmes, will be working on the lighting design for StageFemmes' upcoming production of *Hookman* and the upcoming senior thesis show, *Five Flights*. This spring, she will also direct Athena and design the lighting for her senior thesis, *The Glass Menagerie*.

## A series of musicals breathe new life into the Gund Gallery

Anton Dudley's short musicals, *Unframed*, drew inspiration from the current gallery exhibits.

GRACE KORTHUIS  
STAFF WRITER

On the evenings of Nov. 15 and 16, students and community members waited in line at the Gund Gallery in hopes of scaling the waitlist to see *Unframed*, a series of four short musicals directed by Associate Professor of Drama Anton Dudley. The production took place in the upper level of Gund Gallery, where audience members sat on wooden stools in the center of an art-lined room.

The plots and characters in *Unframed* are derived from specific works of art in the gallery. Dudley selected one

painting, one drawing, one photograph and one sculpture to inspire the four different musicals that comprised the production.

"They're in four different media, but I think what all of them have in common is they all kind of define an absence," Dudley said. "Their present moment is haunted by a history, and you see them trying to reconcile the present with the past in these images."

The portrayal of loss in *Unframed* is evident in distinct ways throughout the musicals. The subject matter included loss of youth, loss of reality and the loss of family and loved ones. Through stylistic deci-

sions such as the arrangement of the audience in the performance space and the sudden transitions of actors from story to story, *Unframed* was unflinchingly original, transcending traditional theatrical expectations.

The novelty of the production allowed for the actors and musicians to make it their own. Their voices and instruments adopted haunting cadences, and their movements were sometimes intentionally jarring and sometimes quiet and graceful.

In the final musical about the death of the main character's mother and her life surrounding that loss, the actors

danced their way through the story, using abstract movements to carry the heart-wrenching narrative.

Even though he had written it, Dudley expressed that *Unframed* felt new to him when performed by the dedicated and passionate cast.

"I was sitting there watching the [final] rehearsal last night, and some of the pieces are really moving, and I was in tears—and I wasn't in tears because of the writing. I was in tears because the students were connecting to the piece so much," Dudley said. "And so that's amazing: when you envision a piece and then all of a sudden it's not yours anymore."

*Unframed* gave audiences an opportunity to perceive art differently. Instead of art being something for the audience to view, it became a wholly immersive experience. The actors and accompanying musicians brought to life pieces that are usually confined to a gallery wall.

"I think we look for narrative in all works," Dudley said. "I think human beings are storytellers by their nature. And so this is just about different ways of perceiving narratives." Throughout the production, the relationship between the audience and the art could flourish into a deeper connection.





The Millennial Pinks, pictured above, were just one of the many acts that performed last Sunday. The annual concert was a therapeutic respite for students. | JOSEPH POZO

## Peer Counselors host cozy Fall Blues concert in Peirce Pub

JOSEPH POZO  
STAFF WRITER

Last Sunday, Kenyon's Peer Counselors (PCs) held their annual Fall Blues concert, an event that successfully alleviated the emotion that it is named after. Advertised as a night of live music and poetry, Fall Blues featured relaxing performances from the Millennial Pinks, Christian Maric '23, Marc Delucchi '20, Oliver VandenBerg '20, Sabrina Halavi '20, Aaliyah Daniels '23 and Jordan Dean '22.

The soft lighting of Pierce Pub served as the perfect backdrop for the acts as they that filled the room with the golden mellowness that is associated with fall in Gambier.

“These events are important because it's a nice space to share artistic voices. It brings people together and could teach others something about humanity or life.”  
**Lucas Jung '23**

The PCs, a group that works to promote mental health and well-being on campus, host Fall Blues as an interruption to the late-fall tedium that characterizes academic life on campus. It represents a macroscopic version of the peer support they offer to students, serving as a reminder to take time for one's self in the throes of an academic semester.

One of the strongest aspects of Fall Blues was how each performer adapted their sound to fit the event's comforting atmosphere. Though the Millennial Pinks' typical sound can be described as somber, bordering on melodrama, their performance here, led by Ethan Bradley '20 on standing bass, was more upbeat.

“I really enjoyed the Millennial

Pinks,” Lucas Jung '23 said. “They filled the room with warm sounds.” Jung also mentioned enjoying singer Maric's performance, noting that he “really liked Maric's acoustic cover of ‘While My Guitar Gently Weeps.’” With performances arguably as warm as the ample supply of Peirce lava cake and apple cider provided by AVI, Fall Blues created a cozy haven from the chilly fall weather outside.

Students appreciate Fall Blues for giving a stage to student performers but also emphasizing positivity. “These events are important because it's a nice space to share artistic voices. It brings people together and could teach others something about humanity or life,” Jung said.

Fall Blues, the concept of which first came into being in 2012, was one of the first all-campus events to be hosted by the PCs, and has since become an annual event. The open mic event fits well with the mission of an organization that encourages unity and peer

support among Kenyon students.

Intended to respond to the effect the change in seasons can have on one's mood, Peer Counselor Sarah Campbell '20 described the event as a “chill atmosphere” that allowed for students “to escape.” The PCs were able to provide “a safe space [for people] to come and relax and just enjoy the music,” Cambell said.

Those who attended Fall Blues would attest to the therapeutic effect of the event's communal sharing of music and poetry. The 30 or so attendees could be seen quietly nodding their heads as they followed along to the soft tunes that radiated from the stage. Some did homework and others talked with friends, but everyone involved delighted in the easygoing environment that welcomed those looking for a quick respite.

Traditionally, the Peer Counselors have also held a Winter Blues event, which they hope to repeat, along with other similar events, this year.

## Bong Joon-Ho wages class warfare and inequality in *Parasite*

The unpredictable Korean film is an intense, action-packed critique of modern capitalism.

ISAAC SAGE  
STAFF WRITER

Like his 2014 film *Snowpiercer*, director Bong Joon-Ho's *Parasite* is concerned with the haves and the have-nots, and what happens when the two clash. In *Snowpiercer*, the stage was a steampunk train that circled an ice-covered globe. In *Parasite*, the setting is current-day Korea, mainly within the mansion of Mr. Park, a wealthy businessman, who lives there with his high-strung wife and two children, both a handful. It's hard to tell which one feels more dystopian.

In *Parasite*, we are introduced to the family of Kim Ki-taek, played by Song Kang-Ho. He, along with his son Ki-woo (Choi Woo-shik), daughter Ki-jeong (Park So-dam) and wife Chung-sook (Jang Hye-jin), live in extreme poverty. The chance for new money arrives when one of Ki-woo's more wealthy friends informs him of a job opening to tutor Min-hyuk, the daughter of Mr. Park.

Through cunning and careful planning, the entire family begins working for the rich family without them knowing that their new servants are related. Revealing any more

about the plot would ruin what is one of the most tense, thought-provoking and unpredictable thrill rides of the year.

In terms of aesthetic construction, *Parasite* is flawless, with uneasy visuals that transform Mr. Park's upper-class home into a twisting house of horrors, and the characters who inhabit it are brought to life by a top-notch ensemble cast. Song Kang-Ho is in fine form as the charismatic-yet-luckless Ki-taek. He must do the heaviest lifting in terms of both humor and pathos, and pulls both off brilliantly. The rest of the cast is excellent as well, particularly Cho Ye-

jong as Mr. Park's wife. Going past the satirical trope of a high-strung wealthy woman obsessed with her dogs, in certain profound moments she reveals her inner complexities. In one key scene, she opens up to Chung-sook about a time she almost lost her son. For one fleeting moment, the two of them trade advice, woman to woman. Bong tips the scales of sympathy in *Parasite* constantly, forcing his audience to question who they are rooting for, and why.

This becomes doubly apparent when another lower-class family is thrown into the mix. Just like Kim's clan, they

are doing what they must to survive. This similarity is evident in Kim's reaction when the other patriarch reminisces about a cake shop of his that went under, as one of Kim's once did. It's a reaction of sympathy and recognition, but ultimately gets his family into deep trouble. *Parasite* acknowledges that people have a lot in common, but in a system designed to keep them at each other's throats, what they share ceases to matter. The film is a brilliant and bitter ode to the fact that people don't want to work together: they want to get to the top, and they will become anyone to get there.



## STAFF EDITORIAL

## Village Market must be vetted for Juul pod vending

Do you know where your Juul pods are coming from? Our recent reporting suggests that if you are buying your Juul products from the Village Market, you may not. After finding several discrepancies between the Village Market pods and pods sold by Apple Valley Marathon—a verified retailer as per the Juul website—the Market provided us with the name of their wholesaler: Gummer Wholesale, Inc. Despite several attempts, we failed to obtain a comment from them. The concerns that students have voiced about the Market's Juul pods has led the *Collegian* to recommend against buying Juul pods from any unauthorized vendor, which currently includes the Village Market.

As a result of the unregulated nature of the vaping market, counterfeit products have flooded stores. In fairness to the Market's wholesaler, it is hard for sellers to identify real and counterfeit pods. According to CNBC, counterfeiters are sophisticated to the point that their products are virtually indistinguishable to venders and distributors. However, consumers should look for these telltale signs once they open the product: the liquid being dark yellow or cloudy, discrepancies in packaging and the pod itself looking different, leaking, or tasting especially unpleasant.

Per Juul's website, "Due to the regulated nature of our industry, we encourage customers only to purchase our products from authorized retailers."

A Juul customer support representative told us on the phone not to purchase Juuls from any non-authorized seller as they were more likely to be counterfeit. Members of our staff purchased Juuls from the Apple Valley Marathon, an authorized dealer, and from the Village Market for comparison. A cursory comparison of these pods does reveal slight differences, including that the Market's pods leaked on our hands and the mouth of the pod looked visibly different from those we purchased from Marathon.

It is entirely plausible, as one student in our article suggests, that since Juul has stopped supplying mint, the Market's mint-flavored Juul pods are simply an older batch, which may explain the different tastes and colors alleged by students. But just last month, an investigation by Indiana's excise police revealed that a food mart in the state without authorization to sell Juul pods had been selling counterfeit e-liquids according to ABC 7 Chicago. Distinguishing real and fake pods from an unauthorized vendor is hard—for your own safety, just don't do it.

E-cigarettes like Juuls are unhealthy in their own right. They deliver a high level of nicotine and their appeal to underage users, which is highly troubling. But there is even more risk associated with counterfeits, which are unhealthy and lack quality control. Juul warns that such products may contain unknown and hazardous chemicals.

Counterfeit pods can look like Juul pods. They can fit into Juuls. They can taste somewhat like Juul pods. This does not mean that they are. If you Juul, do so with caution. Do not buy Juul pods from unauthorized dealers.

The digital version of this editorial contains images comparing the two pods.

The staff editorial is written weekly by editors-in-chief Becca Foley '20 and Adam Schwager '20, and executive director Tommy Johnson '20. You can contact them at [foley1@kenyon.edu](mailto:foley1@kenyon.edu), [schwager1@kenyon.edu](mailto:schwager1@kenyon.edu) and [johnson1@kenyon.edu](mailto:johnson1@kenyon.edu), respectively.

## The truth about saying "I believe you"—in politics, how do we choose who to believe?

MIA SHERIN  
OPINIONS EDITOR

More often than not, Kenyon students do a pretty great job of staying educated about politics. With contradictory information flying around due to our messy political climate, this task can be a difficult one. But there's something I've realized about our campus and about myself that I think reflects a tendency, not necessarily a negative one, of our society as a whole: The decisions we make surrounding politics have become less about what we know and more about who we choose to believe.

This is not to say that voters are uneducated and solely follow their intuition rather than going with evidence and proven facts. But for some hot topics in politics right now, it can be difficult to find the true answer, whether it's something you cannot understand based on your social position and life experiences, or just a personal lack of expertise. Given this, it's not irresponsible to declare a stance based on who you are more likely to believe in a controversy. But it is irresponsible not to honestly evaluate where your belief stems from.

We want so badly to rationalize the political stances we take and try to understand everything. But sometimes we can't. When we arrive at these crossroads, how do each of us choose who to believe? Is it who we most identify with? Is it based off the evidence presented? Or is it an attempt to align with our party's views?

Take the case of Brett Kavanaugh, for example. Our country was divided on this topic; some believed that Christine Blasey Ford was telling the truth, while some thought she was lying. In the hearing, we were given as much evidence to consider as possible, but no one

could attest to being in the room when Brett Kavanaugh sexually assaulted Ford. I had no surefire way of knowing the truth (although I could make some educated assumptions), but I chose to believe her.

Another time our society calls on us to believe is when it comes to mental illness. While it's true that there is significant evidence proving the existence of mental illness, many people, including myself at times, have trouble understanding and believing in the power of mental illness without having experienced it first-hand. And while we know that mental illness exists, we do not always have the ability to crawl into someone's brain and find it. This can cause people to assume that those who suffer from depression are being dramatic or just trying to get attention. Although I have never suffered from mental illness, I stand by the fact that it's always better to believe that these people are telling the truth. What sets me apart from those who choose to believe differently?

Now, more than ever, our political climate calls on us to just believe, even if we may not know enough to say for sure. I'm not scientifically savvy enough to understand how to prove that climate change is real. I will never understand the fear that a person of color may feel when getting pulled over by a cop. I was not in the room when Brett Kavanaugh sexually assaulted Christine Blasey Ford. It is not and will never be my place to tell these people that "I understand how you feel," because I don't. But I can and will always say "I believe you."

While these are only a few examples, it represents a larger question of why we choose to believe in the things we do, the people we

trust and the sources we read. After considering who specifically I tend to believe (*The New York Times*, the Democratic Party, Christine Blasey Ford), I must consider why I believe them.

I choose to believe those whose voices have been previously silenced. But why do I believe them? Because people with privilege, like white cisgender men, have always had their voice. If they wanted to speak up against the injustices they were facing, they would have already done it. Marginalized groups that are just gaining their voice risk getting much more just by advocating for themselves. In many cases, there is no way to know for sure who is telling the truth, and thus I try to not form a strong opinion without understanding both sides. But I believe that we cannot risk making those without privilege feel as though they are not encouraged to speak out. If that were to happen, our society would regress to a time when an unfathomable amount of injustices would go unnoticed, unreported and shoved under the rug.

Being up-to-date and politically savvy is important. But there are many choices we make that carry political weight, choices that require us to put our faith in others, either others that know more, have done more extensive research or just others that have different experiences than we do. When making your next informed political decision, I urge you to examine who you are putting your faith into. Look inward and ask yourself: Who do you believe? And, more importantly, what makes you believe them?

Mia Sherin '22 is a undeclared major from Wilmette, Ill. You can contact her at [sherin1@kenyon.edu](mailto:sherin1@kenyon.edu)



VISHAD ONTA

The opinions page is a space for members of the community to discuss issues relevant to the campus and the world at large. The opinions expressed on this page belong only to the writers. Columns and letters to the editors do not reflect the opinions of the *Collegian* staff. All members of the community are welcome to express opinions through a letter to the editor.

The *Kenyon Collegian* reserves the right to edit all letters submitted for length and clarity. The *Collegian* cannot accept anonymous or pseudonymous letters. Letters must be signed by individuals, not organizations, and must be 200 words or fewer. Letters must also be received no later than the Tuesday prior to publication. The *Kenyon Collegian* prints as many letters as possible each week subject to space, interest and appropriateness. Members of the editorial board reserve the right to reject any submission. The views expressed in the paper do not necessarily reflect the views of Kenyon College.



# Social media addiction is harming the wellbeing of students

JOSH LANTIS  
CONTRIBUTOR

Social media is addicting. Even as I make an effort to limit my consumption, I'd be embarrassed to share the amount of time I spend mindlessly scrolling through Instagram. Being away from social media for a few hours can be painful: What could I be missing out on? I'm not alone in this sensation; everyone seems to feel the same way. Nearly 80 percent of Americans have a social media account of some sort, and more than 210 million individuals worldwide suffer from social media addiction. Per the *Washington Post*, teenagers may be spending more than nine hours per day on average consuming digital media—with much of it being social media.

Social media addiction has significant effects on the lives of those afflicted with it. It hinders communication skills, as conversations over Snapchat or Facebook allow for little of the same development as face-to-face communication. As Dr. Catherine Steiner-Adair of the Child Mind Institute says, "There's no question kids are missing out on very critical social skills. In a way, texting and online communicating—it's not like it creates a non-verbal learning disability, but it puts everybody in a nonverbal disabled context, where body language, facial expression, and even the smallest kinds of vocal reactions are rendered invisible." This can also be seen here on Kenyon's campus, where students are often more absorbed in the media on their

phones than the people in their environment. Rather than connect with those around them, Kenyon students can often be found glued to their phones—be it at Peirce Hall, waiting for their friends to join them at a table, or on Middle Path, making their way to class. This addiction only detracts from the social environment on campus, and limits the ability of students to connect with others. Addiction to social media also has adverse effects on self-image and self-esteem. Others' posts on social media aren't actually indicative of their lives or realities—but often, it can feel as if they are. Does everyone else have more friends than I do? Is everyone else living a better life than I am? These feelings are only more intense in social media

users already suffering from low self-esteem. Body image issues also arise on websites and platforms populated with young users; countless psychological studies draw a connection between social media use and such issues as body image concerns, dieting and self-objectification. But nothing is more damaging than the mental health effects brought about by social media and social media addiction. For one, the use of social media has deep ties to the loneliness epidemic (an entirely different, but related issue; according to Cigna, as many as 46 percent of Americans sometimes or always feel alone) that plagues modern society. The sense of 'togetherness' brought about by social media is superficial, and it leaves many feeling emptier than they were before logging

on. According to a study by researchers at the University of Pittsburgh, young adults that use social media for more than two hours a day are twice as likely to experience anxiety. And those who use social media the most—defined as 50 or more visits to a single platform per week—are by far the most likely to experience feelings of isolation and exhibit symptoms of anxiety. Mental health is already a pressing issue for so many of us, so why make it worse? I am committing myself to limiting my use of social media, and I encourage every reader of the Collegian to do the same. Josh Lantis '23 is a undeclared major from Wooster, Ohio. You can contact him at [lantis1@kenyon.edu](mailto:lantis1@kenyon.edu)

## CROSSWORD

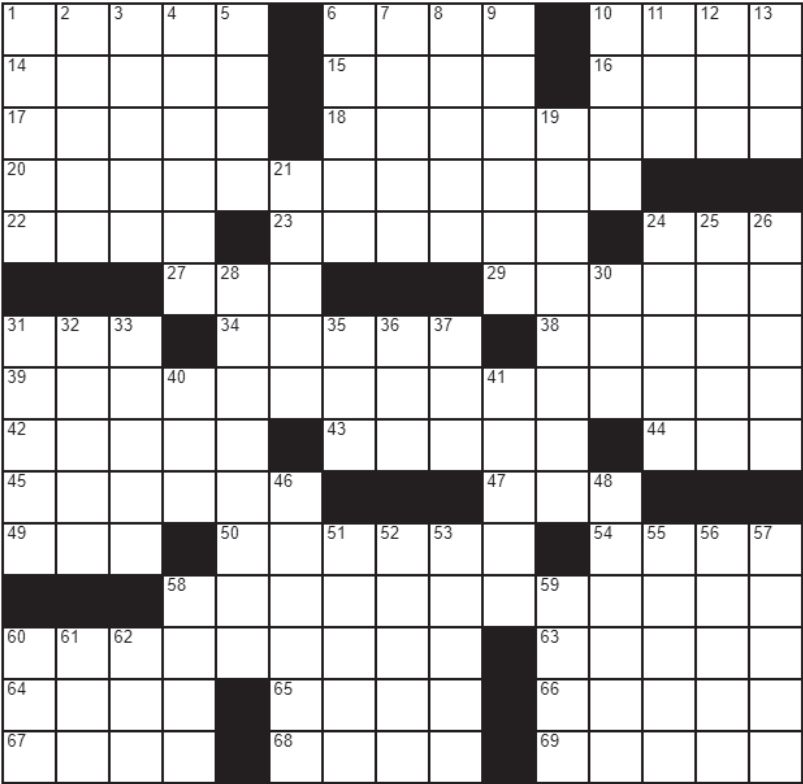
Cameron Austin  
Crossword Editor

- Across**
1. Like Middle Path ought to be, according to some  
6. Caged SeaWorld creature, notoriously  
10. Smoothie bowl base  
14. Spanish Netflix high school drama  
15. "I \_\_\_\_ with You"  
16. Chutzpah  
17. Lomond and Ness  
18. What emo abbreviates  
20. Dinner table infamous for political spats  
22. Indian wrap  
23. *Solanum tuberosum*, informally  
24. 60's drug of choice  
27. N.C., Tenn., Ga., among others  
29. Spookier  
31. "\_\_\_\_-scuse me?", as in Pitch Perfect  
34. Nazi submarine  
38. Delhi dish  
39. Washington's neighbor, where you might celebrate  
20-Across in October  
42. To sit in on a class  
43. 3.28 feet  
44. Down in the dumps  
45. Playground lever  
47. Gambier electric provider  
49. Yore  
50. Third B, alongside

- Bach and Beethoven  
54. To sit as Bexley to Colburn  
58. City of the first 20-Across, per AP Style  
60. Not myopic  
63. Snoring syndrome  
64. Birds, to biologists  
65. To smooch, in Sussex  
66. Come again  
67. "thank u, \_\_\_\_"  
68. Boris Johnson or Theresa May  
69. Kudos

- Down**
1. Furs  
2. Hawaiian hello  
3. What the Pope is to Christ  
4. Kroger aisle with coconut milk and tortillas  
5. Newspaper section  
6. Symbol for 35-Down  
7. To send money, maybe via Western Union  
8. Spice in pumpkin  
9. Its formal variety may be expected at weddings  
10. "I am \_\_\_\_! I am aghast! Is Marius in love at last?"  
11. Tin  
12. Prefix for mode or

- carte  
13. Afflicted  
19. Issa Rae's HBO comedy  
21. Impales  
24. Arboreal arm  
25. 19th century photo hue  
26. Arboreal nymph  
28. "This will do" kind of thing  
30. Aires animal  
31. To demean  
32. Lucre's filthy anagram  
33. Readied to abet  
35. SI resistance  
36. Peak poker card  
37. Thursday morning potato  
40. "\_\_\_\_ the season to be jolly..."  
41. e, out of {Pi, e, 3}  
46. Most ironic  
48. To mollycoddle  
51. Proteinic acid  
52. "\_\_\_\_ your father and mother"  
53. Like an Ohio summer day  
55. Bank, in Buenos Aires  
56. To consume all of  
57. Ivan and Peter  
58. Hushed attention-grab  
59. Ensemble of Janet Thompson  
60. Flame-inflator  
61. NYC's fifth is quite posh  
62. Tyrannosaurus surname



## 11/14 SOLUTIONS



Congrats to Hannah Aronson-Paxton '21, Paola Liendo '20 and Gabriella Must '20 for being the first to submit a correct solution to last week's puzzle!

Did you finish this crossword? Email a photo of your finished crossword to [crossword@kenyoncollegian.com](mailto:crossword@kenyoncollegian.com) for the chance to get a shoutout!



# Lords end promising season with difficult loss at Denison

ADAM SCHWAGER  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

James Rosenbury III finished his inaugural season as head coach of the Lords football team on Saturday in Granville against Denison University. After the Lords took a brief 13-7 lead with 1:41 left in the first half, the Big Red scored 45 unanswered points to claim a share of the NCAC title and drop the Lords to a final record of 3-7.

After a stagnant first half from the offense, the Lords were down 7-0 for the majority of the half. However, the Lords tied the game up with Thomas Merkle's '20 61st and final touchdown pass to breakout wide receiver Andrew Schnarre '23. In an attempt to regain their lead before halftime, Denison's quarterback Drew Dawkins threw an ill-advised pass that fell right in the hands of Lords

star linebacker Sam Dickey '20, his first career interception. Using his athleticism, and with a key lead block from defensive tackle Trevor Brown '20, Dickey took the interception 50 yards for a touchdown and a 13-7 lead.

On the ensuing kickoff, Denison's Peyton Vining turned the tide of the game, returning the kick 91 yards for a touchdown. A three-and-out from the Lords and a deep pass from Denison allowed them to get another field goal before time expired, and the Big Red had turned what looked like a surefire six-point deficit into a 17-13 lead at halftime. The first five second-half possessions for Denison, the NCAC leader in total offense, all ended in touchdowns, and the Lords lost by a final score of 52-13.

The Lords finished with a 3-7 record, their first sea-



Andrew Schnarre '23 looks to move upfield. | COURTESY OF KENYON COLLEGE ATHLETICS

son with victories since 2016, when they also finished 3-7. While the Lords will be graduating three of their starters on defense, they still look poised to build on that side of

the ball, which finished second in the NCAC in sacks, third in fewest passing yards allowed and first in defensive touchdowns with three.

The Lords will start their

2020 season next fall, when Catholic University (D.C.) comes to campus to avenge their double overtime loss against the Lords in September.

## Basketball drops home opener, fails to secure victory over Presidents

SYDNEY SCHULMAN  
STAFF WRITER

With the winter sports season starting at Kenyon, basketball games have begun. Last Saturday's match loss 67-83 against Muskingum University marked the Lords' home opener at Tomsich Arena, while on Wednesday the Lords lost to the Washington & Jefferson College (Pa.) Presidents 73-55.

The first half of the game was marked by a tight back and forth between both teams. Ryan O'Neil '20 and Elijah Davis '22 were the top scorers of the half, putting up nine and eight points respectively. The Lords gained a total of 31 points in the first half. Towards the end of the half, O'Neil sent a pass to teammate Nick Lewis '23, who sunk a shot from the 3-point line, tying the game with 14 seconds left on the clock. However, the Muskies prevailed at the conclusion of the first half when junior guard Marcus Dempsey scored a 3-pointer with a mere two seconds remaining, bringing the score to 34-31.

In the second half, Kenyon's defense subdued Dempsey's shooting streak, reducing the junior to a 3-10 shooting performance. Despite this, Dempsey went 5-5 on free throws and finished with the game high of 30 points.

The Lords continued to fight during the second half. Davis tacked on 15 more points for the Lords, resulting in his game high of 22 points. At one point, Muskingum

edged out the Lords by 14 points, but the Lords were able to reduce this lead to six with 7:54 left in the game.

Despite their persistence, the Lords did not prevail. They particularly struggled against Muskingum's outside shooting: The Muskies went 35.5 percent for the game from three point range, while Kenyon was only able to make 20.8 percent of shots from beyond the arc.

Despite the loss, Head Coach Dan Priest is expressed optimism about this upcoming season.

"I am very pleased with the progress of our team and how we played in our first two games... Our seniors have done a great job integrating the young players, and our team chemistry and togetherness continues to grow," he said. "I think we have a team that will be fun to watch and will get better each week as the season progresses."

The Lords travelled to Washington & Jefferson for their third game of the season, losing 73-55. The first half was hard fought and low scoring; the Presidents led the Lords 24-22 despite shooting 4/26 (15.4%) from the field. The Presidents were able to lead at the half's end due to their ability to draw fouls and convert free throws. The Presidents were 15/19 (78.9%) from the stripe in the first half, while the Lords were unable to score a single free throw.

The second half was less encouraging for the Lords. They were outscored 33-49 as the Presidents caught fire from 3-point range, hitting 6 of 11.

The Lords' next game is at home against Waynesburg University (Pa.) at 2 p.m on November 23.



Elijah Davis '22 attempts a layup. The Lords are 1-1. | COURTESY OF KENYON COLLEGE ATHLETICS



Emma Becker '22 races ahead of the field. Becker would finish the race in eighth place (21:38.7), which qualified her for the NCAA Championship. | COURTESY OF KENYON COLLEGE ATHLETICS

## Becker advances to NCAA Championship

JORDY FEE-PLATT  
SPORTS EDITOR

side cramps and finished with a time of 28:22.2.

### Mens

In their final race of the season, the Kenyon Men's cross country team finished 31st in the NCAA Division III Great Lakes Regional Championships that took place in Grand Rapids, Mich. Calvin College, the hosts of the event, took first place with 43 points.

Seven Lords ran in the meet. Tommy Johnson '20 was the first Kenyon runner to cross the finish line with a time of 25:48.1, which earned him 84th place. Paul Neubauer '21 followed over a minute later in 170th (27:05.4). Ethan Bradley '20 and John Burczak '23 were next to finish, running 28:01.3 and 28:08.7 respectively.

Vincent Lewis '20, Kenyon's fastest runner all season, struggled with severe

### Womens

The Ladies cross country team competed in the NCAA D-III Regional Championships over the weekend and earned an 11th-place finish out of 34 participating teams.

Emma Becker '22 continued her stellar season, leading the team with an 8th-place individual finish. Her time of 21:38.7 qualified her for the NCAA Championship next Saturday in Louisville, Ky. Becker will be the first Kenyon participant in the event since Jenna Willett '13 in 2013.

In the final race of her career, Chloe Hall '20 came across next for the Ladies in 49th with a time of 22:44.5. Alice Riley '23 followed after in 94th place with a time of 23:27.3.



## THIS WEEK IN KENYON SPORTS HISTORY

On November 21, 1940, Kenyon's Ski Club was founded. The first year of the club focused on teaching students how to ski, and the following years were dedicated to intercollegiate play.

# Lords beat Rochester in overtime, advance to Sweet Sixteen

**JORDY FEE-PLATT**  
SPORTS EDITOR

**JOE WINT**  
SPORTS ASSISTANT

On Sunday, the Kenyon College men's soccer team defeated the University of Rochester (N.Y.) Yellowjackets with an overtime goal to send the Lords to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA D-III tournament. This win comes on the heels of Kenyon's 5-0 blowout of the PSU Behrend (Pa.) Lions in their opening-round game. The No. 9 Lords have advanced to the third round of NCAA play for

the sixth time in their last seven seasons. The win also ties a program record, as the Lords' unbeaten streak this season has reached 20 games.

In their first game against No. 20 PSU Behrend, the Lords started off strong. They created plenty of scoring chances early and scored twice within the first six minutes of play. In the third minute, Sebastian Gaese '22 started the scoring with a battle for a loose ball at the top of the 18-yard box that he sent into the corner of the net. Less than three minutes later, Sam

Carson '22 received the ball on a Max Taylor '20 deflection and fired the ball into the right side of the goal.

Kenyon's dominant possession left the Lions deflated heading into halftime. In the second half, Sebastian Brylka '23, Atli Hrafnkelsson '23 and Collyn Carpenter '21 each added to the lead with goals of their own, giving the Lords a resounding 5-0 victory.

On the following day, the Lords played Rochester in the second round, a far more difficult opponent.

Despite a bevy of scoring chances for Kenyon early on, the Yellowjackets found the back of the net first in the 39th minute. A cross from Zach Lawlor off a clearance from goalkeeper Ian McInturf '21 found Will Eisold, who headed the ball into the net.

The Lords entered the second half trailing by a goal. However, as they've done all season, they responded with resiliency. In the 75th minute, the team's luck turned: Kenyon earned a free kick on the edge of the 18-yard box. Max Taylor

'20 stepped up and fired a low shot into the left corner, evening up the score to 1-1.

Six minutes into overtime, Luke Muther '22 drove towards the right side of the 18-yard box. Muther jumped in the air as a Rochester defender attempted a slide tackle. The defender fell flatly on top of the ball and was whistled for handling the ball inside the penalty area, giving the Lords an opportunity to win the game from the penalty spot. Scott Upton '22 calmly stepped up and slid his shot past the goalkeeper to win the game, sending the Kenyon bench into a frenzy.

Due to the losses of No. 4 Franklin & Marshall College (Pa.) and No. 7 John Carroll University, the latter of whom handed the Lords their only defeat of the season, the Lords will host their region of the Sweet 16 and Elite Eight. The Lords will face off against Montclair State University (N.J.) this Saturday at 1:30 on Mavec Field. If the Lords win, they will face the winner of Claremont-Mudd-Scripps (Calif.) and Centre College (KY). It would mark just the second time in Kenyon's history that the team will have reached the Elite Eight of the NCAA tournament, the other one coming in 2016 when the Lords were ultimately defeated by Tufts University (Mass.).



The Lords celebrate with fans after the winning goal in overtime by Scott Upton (22). | COURTESY OF KENYON COLLEGE ATHLETICS

# Ladies continue strong start, win two of three on the road

**SAM HAGA**  
STAFF WRITER

The Kenyon Ladies basketball team continued the early-season portion of their schedule with three games this week. They picked up wins against William Paterson University (N.J.), and Muskingum University, but fell to The Catholic University of America (D.C.).

The Ladies participated in York College's 13th annual Coaches vs. Cancer Classic on Friday and Saturday. They suffered a tough loss against The Catholic University of America on Friday, losing 62-39. Kenyon's 28.3 percent shooting from the floor, compared to Catholic's 41.2 percent, contributed heavily to their offensive woes. Grace Connery '22 led the Ladies with 12 points, while Paige Matijasich '20 obtained a team-high eight rebounds.

On Saturday, Kenyon bounced back in a commanding fashion against William Paterson, winning 63-47. Matijasich excelled with 24 points, with Schaub and Connery earning 19 and 14 points respectively. The Ladies significantly improved their shooting percentage to 41, sinking 76.5 percent from the free throw line.

Matijasich credited their comeback to the team bringing "a lot more energy than [they] had the game before," along with "believing and being confident in what [they] were doing as a team."

On Wednesday, Kenyon traveled to Muskingum University and won a 64-63 nailbiter. The Ladies held off a Muskingum second-half rally after losing a 10-point halftime lead. With 0:56 left in a two-point game, Paige Matijasich '20 hit two free throws to tie the game at 60, the first of

which was her 1,000th point as a member of the Kenyon Ladies. Matijasich is only the 12th Ladies player to record 1,000 career points. Continuing her clutch play, Matijasich scored a layup with eight seconds left to put her team ahead, and the Ladies got a defensive stop to secure the victory. Matijasich led all scorers with 25 points on seven of 15 shooting and grabbed 10 rebounds. Ellie Schaub '21 added 18 points in 30 minutes. Kenyon's excellent performance from the line contributed to the victory: They made 18 of 21 free throws, while Muskingum shot just 45 percent at the charity stripe.

In their next contest, the Ladies will travel to Chicago this weekend for the Midway Classic, where they will face off against Trine University (Ind.) on Saturday and the University of Chicago on Sunday.



Paige Matijasich '20 prepares to shoot a left-handed layup, with teammate Greta Propp '22 looking on. | COURTESY OF KENYON COLLEGE ATHLETICS